



Department of Justice

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FEWER GUN CRIMES REPORTED IN DAYTON THIS SUMMER

“Project Safe Summer” emphasized reducing gun crimes

DAYTON - City, county and federal law enforcement agencies reported 75 crimes involving guns occurred in Dayton between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2005. During the same period in 2004, law enforcement agencies recorded 90 crimes.

“The summer of 2005 saw the fewest gun crimes since at least 1998,” U.S. Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart said in announcing the results of Project Safe Summer.

Project Safe Summer was a stepped-up effort to reduce gun crimes committed in the Dayton area between June and August 2005, compared to the summer of 2004.

“We wanted to emphasize that committing a crime with a gun creates hard time for everyone involved,” Lockhart said. “The criminal does ‘hard time’ in a federal prison. The criminal’s family will suffer a hard time because their loved one is behind bars. The victim will struggle with a harder life because of the physical and emotional injuries. The community will experience a hard time because of increased fear of violent crime and the impact it has on a neighborhood.”

As part of Project Safe Summer:

Nearly 1,800 television and radio messages aired, including a television message featuring Dayton’s professional basketball team the Dayton Jets, on all network affiliated television stations, cable stations, and some radio stations.

Montgomery County Sheriff Dave Vore’s Office, Miami Valley Crimestoppers, and The Kettering Medical Center Network distributed more than 5,000 gunlocks at events around the city.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office, Dayton Police, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office directed 44 new gun cases to federal court. In some noted cases, firearms were sold to juveniles who attended high school; a case involving home invasions where firearms were stolen (including a local police officer’s home) and sold or to be sold on the streets; and a case in which a traffic stop was conducted with two small children in the vehicle without seat belts. The driver was under suspension and the passenger had a long criminal history of violent crimes.

The Spirit of Peace CDC and Solid Video Productions teamed up to produce a gun-violence prevention documentary and will be producing a companion curriculum for young men

and women. The videos will be shown in various locations to remind people of the impact gun violence has on the family.

Dayton's Weed and Seed communities hosted National Night Out parties on August 2 that included messages about the problems with gun violence.

The Dayton Ministerial Alliance started a program called Citizens Reporting Information to Ministers Effectively (CRIME) that provided people with cards to mail in reporting suspected gun crime information.

All the partners hosted a Project Safe Summer kickoff at McIntosh Park on June 20. Former NFL and Ohio State running back Keith Byars co-chaired the event which also featured music by FRIENDZ, and the support of Ray's Pharmacy and the House of Bread.

The Dayton Police Department compiled the following table showing gun crimes reported between May 31 and September 1 in each of the following years:

Year	Gun Crime Reports Received
1998	107
1999	123
2000	146
2001	123
2002	143
2003	124
2004	90
2005	75

Crimes with guns include homicide by firearm, armed robbery, aggravated assault, aggravated burglary, domestic violence involving a firearm, carrying concealed weapons, and other crimes.

Other participants in Project Safe Summer included the Christian Life Center of Dayton, and Crimestoppers International.

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